

THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDING PROCEDURES

References: Constitution Article XVI and Bylaw XIII

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that are presented to the Convention are handled according to the following procedure:

INTRODUCTION & VOTING: **Constitution amendments may be voted on by the Convention on the same day they are introduced** because they require later chapter ratification. **Bylaw amendments must be introduced a day before they are voted on.** Constitution amendments do not become effective until they have been ratified by the chapters. Bylaw amendments become effective immediately upon Convention approval unless a different effective date is stated in them.

A “package” of amendments to both the Constitution and Bylaws which deals with a single subject requires introduction a day before Convention action and chapter ratification. The Bylaw amendments in “package” proposals are ineffective unless the related Constitution amendments are ratified.

The Convention committee to which a subject is assigned is responsible for recommending the substance of proposed amendments on that subject. But all proposals for amendment should be checked through the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for technical language, consistency with existing provisions, and proper cross-referencing.

Convention committees must plan on entering into the record all of their proposals for Constitution and Bylaws changes on the first full day of the Convention. Such proposals don’t need to be in final form but must include the substance of the intended changes. If a proposed Constitution amendment is relatively simple and non-controversial, it can be voted on by the Convention after its introduction. More complicated amendments should be brought back to the Convention a day after their introduction and may then be amended from the form in which they were originally presented.

MAJORITIES: **Constitution** amendments must be approved by at least a **three-fourths** favorable vote of those at the Convention entitled to vote before they can be submitted for ratification to the chapters. Amendments to the **Bylaws** must be approved by at least a three-fourths majority of those present and entitled to vote to be adopted.

VOTERS: Accredited Convention voters are those of the represented collegiate and alumnus chapters, the members of the Executive Council, and the national officers of the Association. Total accredited votes usually number about 225. “Present and entitled to vote” means all accredited voters registered at the Convention, whether or not they are in the room at the time the vote is taken.

RATIFICATION: Ratification of amendments is done by vote of the active members of the collegiate chapters. At least **three-fourths of the chapters** must vote in favor of an amendment for its ratification. For a chapter to be counted in favor of an amendment, a three-fourths quorum of its active members must vote or deliberately abstain from voting on the amendment, and three-fourths of such quorum must vote in favor of the amendment.

Ballots on Convention-approved amendments requiring ratification are sent to all chapters promptly after the Convention, with full explanation. The deadline for return of chapter ballots is set in accord with Constitution Art. XVI, Sec. 3, with the Executive Council empowered to vote for chapters which either submit no ballot or submit invalid ballots. Invalid ballots result when less than the required quorum of chapter members vote on the amendment.